



Kay Ivey
GOVERNOR

Alabama Department of
REHABILITATION SERVICES



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COMMISSIONER

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey to recognize achievements of employees with disabilities

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey will personally recognize the achievements of employees with disabilities and businesses in Alabama at an awards reception Thursday, Dec. 6, at 2 p.m. at the Alabama State Capitol.

The ceremony is being conducted by the Alabama Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, a program of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS).

The honorees have earned top accolades in their respective categories, including large and small employer of the year, partnership, youth leadership, media, student, educator, professional and large and small business employee of the year.

Last October, local committees from around the state recognized top individuals and businesses in their respective areas during "National Disability Employment Awareness Month" awards ceremonies. The state winners were chosen from these local winners in a dozen distinct categories following the local committee nominee submissions.

This year's award winners include Sarah Gail Smith, advocate; Alabama School for the Blind, Helen Keller School, Talladega County Schools, Transition University, and Jacksonville State University, collaboration; Cynthia Stanley, educator; Ethan Major, large business employee; J Lodge LLC, large business employer; WHNT-Huntsville,

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media; Personnel Board of Jefferson County, partnership; Johnny Cook, public service; Brandon Wilson, small business employee; Tony Serra Nissan, small business employer; Whitney Stephens, student; and Mark Stephen Lanzi, youth leadership.

The Alabama Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities was created in the late 1940s by Gov. Jim Folsom as a response to veterans with disabilities who returned home and found no work available. Since that time, many individuals with disabilities, both veterans and civilians, have received the benefit of activities of the Governor's Committee. The committee coordinates a network of local volunteer groups throughout the state and works closely with ADRS staff to develop employment opportunities and raise awareness of the needs and rights of Alabamians with disabilities.

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services is the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.

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